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An Action
Plan for
Enhancing
California's
Park & Ride
Facilities &
HOV Lanes



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Division of Traffic Operations 1120 N Street, MS 36 Sacramento, CA 95814

www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/systemops/buspool/



What is the **BusPool Project?**

In July 2005, Caltrans completed the BusPool Project, a master plan of potential Park & Ride and High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) improvements to enhance public transit express bus services in the State's metropolitan areas.

Why Transit, Park & Rides, and HOV Lanes?

California's transportation system is

mature, expanding less than one percent each year. When expansion is necessary, Caltrans and its partners choose projects strategically designed to provide the highest return on what are usually expensive capital investments. Even with these investments, highway congestion in urban areas continues to increase at a rate nearly five times that of population growth. Recent projections suggest congestion will likely double again during this decade. To address congestion, Caltrans and its partners have been seeking new opportunities to improve our transportation system's productivity.

California's transportation network currently includes 367 Park & Ride lots and 1,061 HOV lane miles. Given the state's extensive Park & Ride and HOV system, getting more people on transit and using these facilities represents a cost-effective opportunity to enhance mobility, while spending less money on costly new highway expansion projects.



Improvements directed toward public transit will allow more California residents to take advantage of the state's extensive network of HOV lanes.

Project

RAPID BUS

Who Was Involved in the Project?

Caltrans hired a team led by Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates to spearhead this effort. A Technical Advisory Committee of regional partners included representatives from Caltrans, transit operators from major metropolitan areas, planning organizations and other public agencies. These regional partners provided important data, offered assistance in administering surveys, and worked closely with Caltrans and the consulting team to ensure the recommendations would address the state's most critical HOV and Park & Ride transit needs.

How Was the Study Conducted?

The project had four primary phases, with extensive involvement from the transit agencies in the state's metropolitan areas and Caltrans' district offices.

Phase I - Project Organization

The consulting team developed a planning process that ensured the BusPool Project would be coordinated with existing transit, Park & Ride and highway projects throughout the state.

Phase II - Needs Assessment

Caltrans worked with its regional partners to gather information regarding current Park & Ride lot usage, express bus services and potential areas for improvement. New research included surveys, interviews, focus groups and an extensive data analysis to determine what commuters wanted and how to match their "wants" to available options.

Phase III - Performance Measures and Project Priorities

Caltrans and its partners developed performance measures to evaluate potential investments in transit, HOV and Park & Ride facilities. Some of the criteria included *connectivity to transit, demand, impacts on freeway congestion, potential service level improvements,* and *ease of implementation.*

Phase IV - Project Planning and Recommendations

Based on the extensive input and evaluation process, the consulting team and Caltrans prepared a Ten-Year Master Plan.

What Are the Recommendations?

The consulting team identified 181 potential projects, covering all of the state's major metropolitan regions. These projects were selected because they will positively impact ridership on public transit bus routes that utilize Caltrans' HOV facilities and Park & Ride lots. They cover a wide array of strategies, from improving Park & Ride lot maintenance, to adding more parking spaces, to building HOV access ramps and adding new HOV lanes.



Park &
Ride lots
with better
security,
public
information,
and improved
transit
services are
recommender
in the Master

The recommendations were also developed to help Caltrans meet its newly adopted goals:

- **Safety** Provide the safest transportation system in the nation for users and workers.
- **Flexibility** Provide mobility choices through strategic partnerships.
- **Mobility** Optimize transportation system throughput and provide dependable travel times.
- **Delivery** Improve delivery of projects and services.
- Stewardship Preserve and enhance California's resources and investments.